AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1.   (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

(i) defining, in configuration data of a computer system, a business process in terms of what activities the business process comprises; and

(ii) defining a behavior of each activity of the business process with respect to a business object acted on by the business activity, for a plurality of process control elements including:

a status element, which represents a progress level within the business process that the ~~data~~ business object has reached by arriving at the instant activity;

a user interface element, which allows users to operate on the ~~data~~ business object within a defined scope of the instant activity;

a plausibility check element, which verifies that the ~~data~~ business object sufficiently meets a set of criteria to proceed past the instant activity;

a release element, which signals that the ~~data~~ business object is ready to proceed past the instant activity in the business process; and

an authorization element, which specifies a set of users that is allowed to operate on the ~~data~~ business object for the instant activity; and

(iii) storing the defined business process and activity behaviors in configuration data of the computer system, allowing the computer system to thereafter dynamically generate the business process to operate on business objects managed by the computer system.

2.   (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising performing an activity of the business process in accordance with a corresponding defined behavior.

3.   (Currently Amended) A system comprising:

a processor;

a memory coupled to the processor and storing instructions executable by the processor to configure business application software, the instructions implementing a method including:

presenting an option to define a business process in terms of what activities the business process comprises;

based on user input, setting values in configuration data corresponding to a defined process;

presenting an option to define a behavior of each activity of the business process with respect to a business object for each of a plurality of process control elements including:

a status element, which represents a progress level within the business process that the ~~data~~ business object has reached by arriving at the instant activity;

a user interface element, which allows users to operate on the ~~data~~ business object within a defined scope of the instant activity;

a plausibility check element, which verifies that the ~~data~~ business object sufficiently meets a set of criteria to proceed past the instant activity;

a release element, which signals that the ~~data~~ business object is ready to proceed past the instant activity in the business process; and

an authorization element, which specifies a set of users that is allowed to operate on the ~~data~~ business object for the instant activity; and

based on user input, setting values in the configuration data corresponding to the defined business process and activity behaviors in configuration data of the computer system, allowing the computer system to thereafter dynamically generate the business process to operate on business objects managed by the computer system.

4.   (Original) The system of claim 3, the method further comprising performing the business process or an activity thereof in accordance with the configuration data.

5.   (Original) The system of claim 3, the method further comprising associating respective configuration values with retrieval parameters.

6.   (Original) The system of claim 5, the method further comprising reading configuration values based on the retrieval parameters, and controlling a behavior of the business process or an activity thereof based on the configuration values.

7.   (Currently Amended) A machine-readable medium storing computer-executable instructions to perform a method comprising:

presenting an option to define a business process in terms of what activities the business process comprises;

based on user input, setting values in configuration data corresponding to a defined process;

presenting an option to define a behavior of each activity of the business process with respect to a business object for each of a plurality of process control elements including:

a status element, which represents a progress level within the business process that the ~~data~~ business object has reached by arriving at the instant activity;

a user interface element, which allows users to operate on the ~~data~~ business object within a defined scope of the instant activity;

a plausibility check element, which verifies that the ~~data~~ business object sufficiently meets a set of criteria to proceed past the instant activity;

a release element, which signals that the ~~data~~ business object is ready to proceed past the instant activity in the business process; and

an authorization element, which specifies a set of users that is allowed to operate

on the ~~data~~ <u>business</u> object for the instant activity; and

based on user input, setting values in the configuration data corresponding to the defined

business process and activity behaviors in configuration data of the computer system, allowing

the computer system to thereafter dynamically generate the business process to operate on

business objects managed by the computer system.

8.   (Original) The machine-readable medium of claim 7, the method further comprising

associating respective configuration values with retrieval parameters.

9.   (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

reading configuration data to determine a behavior of a business activity with respect to a

business object, wherein the behavior is defined in the configuration data in accordance with a

plurality of process control elements including:

a status element, which represents a progress level within the business process

that the ~~data~~ <u>business</u> object has reached by arriving at the instant activity;

a user interface element, which allows users to operate on the ~~data~~ <u>business</u> object

within a defined scope of the instant activity;

a plausibility check element, which verifies that the ~~data~~ <u>business</u> object

sufficiently meets a set of criteria to proceed past the instant activity;

a release element, which signals that the ~~data~~ <u>business</u> object is ready to proceed

past the instant activity in the business process; and

an authorization element, which specifies a set of users that is allowed to operate

on the ~~data~~ <u>business</u> object for the instant activity; and

performing the business activity in accordance with the configuration data.

10.   (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein values in the configuration data corresponding to the business activity are read based on a retrieval parameter corresponding to a process control area of the business activity.

11.   (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the status element relates to a stage of a business process that includes the business activity.

12.   (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the user interface element relates to at least one of an appearance and operability of a user interface for handling the business object.

13.   (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the plausibility check element relates to plausibility checks on data relating to the business object.

14.   (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the release element relates to an approval for the business object to be acted on by a subsequent activity.

15.   (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the authorization element relates to relates an authorization to act on the business object.